

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/LC:MHENDERSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051907

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: DEAN/SHARMAN CASE

REF: VIENTIANE 1467

1. HOWARD DEAN DISCUSSED CASE WITH DESK OFFICER AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MILLER DURING MARCH 6 VISIT TO DEPARTMENT. MR. DEAN EXPRESSED HIS THANKS FOR WHAT THE EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT HAVE DONE AND GAVE HIGH PRAISE FOR AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL HANDLING OF THE CASE.

2. DEAN TOLD US OF VARIOUS PROPOSALS TO SPEED HIS SON'S RELEASE INCLUDING H. ROSS PERROT'S SUGGESTION THAT DEAN ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF COL. "BULL" SIMON, WHO LED THE SON TAY RAID, TO GET HIS SON OUT OF CAPTIVITY, AND ANOTHER SUGGESTION THAT HE OFFER TO PAY RANSOM MONEY. DEAN AS TURNED DOWN ALL SUCH IDEAS, PUTTING HIS TRUST IN OUR EFFORTS. MEASURES WHICH THE DEANS HAVE TAKEN, SUCH AS SENDING LETTERS TO SENATOR KENNEDY, AMERICAN RED CROSS AND ICRC (COPIES BEING POUCHED) HAVE BEEN COORDINATED WITH US.

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DEAN ALSO MENTIONED A SOCIAL MEETING WHICH MRS. DEAN HAS

ARRANGED WITH A SISTER OF FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING
IN WHICH MRS. DEAN WOULD PASS ALONG CHARLIE'S STORY. WE
HAVE PROVIDED THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE WITH THE BACKGROUND

OF THE CASE.

3. WE EXPLAINED TO DEAN OUR PLANS TO CALL IN THE LAO
AMBASSADOR AGAIN AND, ALLOWING TIME FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO
REPORT THIS TO PHOUMI, INSTRUCTING YOU TO SEEK A FOLLOW-UP
MEETING WITH SOUVANNA PHOUMA. (WE ALSO OF COURSE HAVE
IN MIND YOUR RECOMMENDATION REGARDING ANOTHER LETTER FROM
THE SECRETARY.) WE SUGGESTED TO DEAN THAT FURTHER PUB-
LICISING THE CASE, SUCH AS THROUGH A DEPARTMENT STATEMENT
OR A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY THE DEANS, SHOULD WAIT AT
LEAST UNTIL WE SEE THE RESULTS OF CALLING IN THE AMBAS-
SADOR AND YOUR FOLLOW-UP WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. WHEN
DEAN RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF MRS. DEAN'S RETURNING TO
LAOS, WE SUGGESTED THAT THIS WOULD PROVIDE THE BEST
SETTING FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE, ESPECIALLY IF MISS
HOOPER COULD JOIN MRS. DEAN IN FACING THE PRESS. INGERSOLL

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